

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4-15 and 17-25 are pending. Claims 3, 16 and 19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 22-25 are new. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for priority under section 119 and the notice that all of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

The Applicant also appreciates receiving a copy of form PTO-1449, on which the Examiner has initialed all listed items.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 9-10, 15-19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takaya et al (JP 2,956,587) in view of Scheifler (US 6,578,044). This rejection of claim 1 is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite registration and search templates transmitted from the management center and a sought information input unit for enabling a user to enter sought information corresponding to search headings in the search template, where the search headings match the registration headings.

Takaya discloses a method of inputting [0025-0030] and storing client file information such as store location information by memory means 17 [0019], managing customer file information with the map management file, memorized by memory means 18 [0020] and a map file name memorized by the name-of-the-station file [0021]. Client file information, map management file information and the name-of-the-station file are all memorized before being

displayed on a map [0020, 0021]. However, based on the hierarchical search method of Takaya, store information can only be searched and displayed after the store is selected, and wider searches based on varied store information can not be done.

In Takaya, advertising of a store's location, relative to the searcher's location, a store's industry category and a store's content is provided through an information retrieval process. As shown in FIG. 9, once the customer file information is inputted, a terminal 101 can connect to a server 10, and the terminal user can retrieve store information once the search button 21 is clicked [0040]. The information retrieval process consists of a "map" process, which searches for stores meeting location criteria, a "virtual market" process, which searches for stores meeting the industry criteria, and a "search" process, which searches a customer file for information on supplies the store advertises [0039].

A search may be tailored to specific user search parameters [0040]. A map file is read from memory means [0041] and a search for customer files based on the user's mouse selection on the map is performed [0042, 0043]. The control means 11 reads the map file and selects customer files from memory means 17 and stores registration numbers that correspond to the map file name (map area) selected by the user. The store registration numbers contain location, industry and store information [0043]. Based on the location and industry information, an icon representing the store is displayed on the map. The user clicks on the icon to gain more information about the store. Once the icon is clicked, the detailed information about the store is provided [0046]. Therefore, the terminal user can receive information and advertising about a store only after the icon is clicked [0047].

Because the map of Takaya is displayed through a hierarchical search, the information about a particular store can only be displayed after the icon that represents the store is chosen.

Therefore, the information about the store can be retrieved only after the contents of the information are displayed.

On the contrary, the present invention allows the search of, for example, store information based on registration and search templates prior to an individual store selection. These templates contain essential information such as industry, category or location, which must be inputted by the registrant, and supplemental information relating to other items, which does not have to be inputted by the information registrant. Specific information, which is sought by the registrant, is correlated to search headings and a search process is initiated. The search headings of the search template are matched with the registration headings of the registration template (page 30, line 24 to page 31, line 12). Therefore, the sought information can be searched and displayed before the contents of the information of the store are displayed.

Regarding Schiefler (US 6,578,0441), the Examiner asserts that, while Takaya does not teach or suggest entering sought information corresponding to search headings in a search template, with the search headings matching the registration headings, Scheifler overcomes these deficiencies. This assertion is respectfully traversed.

Scheifler does disclose a database search method, which is a query request, comprising a take or notify operation and a template which is an entry object and has fields with specified values that must be matched. Schiefler, however, does not teach or suggest the specific functionality of the template, but only that it is an entry object having some or all of its fields set to specific values that must be matched exactly (column 4, lines 37-39). Therefore, the Examiner's assertion that Schiefler specifically teaches search headings in a search template, with the search headings matching the registration heading, is incorrect.

Additionally, Schiefler discloses that the template will query against entry objects, including fields that have specific values and wildcards. However, Scheifler neither teaches nor suggests that these fields and wild cards are a template or part of a template. To the contrary, Scheifler specifically teaches a (emphasis added) template 706 with multiple individual types or subtypes that reside within an entry database 710 (column 9, lines 27-33 and FIG. 7). Schiefler neither discloses nor suggests a method to register information in such a way that the information of common items is written by using a registration template and allows searching information through a search terminal, in which an item matches with an item in a search template. Therefore, in Schiefler, the user cannot search for desired information using a search template against a registration template. By teaching only a single template that searches against a database, Schiefler restricts the user's ability to only search against data types that reside within the database.

The present invention overcomes the deficiencies of Scheifler by specifically teaching two separate templates - a search template and a registration template, each with separate functionality. The functionality of the search template is to match items inputted against the registration template, through which required and non-required items are input. Because the search template of the present invention does not have items that are required to be input and can search against the registration template, the user has the option of inputting items for which he wants to search.

Therefore, as the present invention is not obvious with regards to Takaya in view of Scheifler, the Applicant respectfully requests the removal of the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection.

Claims 2, 4, 9 and 10 are all dependent, either directly or indirectly, on claim 1, which is now believed to be in allowable form. Therefore, claims 2, 4, 9 and 10 are believed to be in allowable form and the Applicant respectfully request the Examiner's rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 3 and 16 have been canceled; therefore the merits of the Examiner's rejection will not be discussed in this paper.

Regarding claims 15-19 and 21, the Examiner specifically stated the rejections were based on grounds corresponding to reasons given above for claim 1 in this office action.

The Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections of claim 15-19 and 21 are respectfully traversed.

Claim 15 has been amended to recite an information management system comprising a management center for storing and managing the facility information as well as for storing a registration template and a search template, and a search terminal with a sought information input unit for enabling the user to enter sought information corresponding to search headings for searching according to the registration headings based on a search template.

Claim 16, as mentioned above, has been canceled.

Claim 17 has been amended to recite a facility information input unit for enabling the information provider to enter information corresponding to the registration headings as the facility information based on a registration template in which the content of a predetermined content heading includes essential items, that must be inputted when the information is registered, and supplemental information that relates to other items and that is not required to be inputted when the information is registered.

Claim 18 has been amended to recite a management center that stores and manages facility information and that stores a registration template and a search template.

Claim 21 has been amended to recite a method for obtaining facility information through a plurality of registration headings on a registration template of a registration terminal, where the registration headings include essential items that must be inputted when the information is registered, supplemental information that relates to other items and that is not required to be inputted when the information is registered, and outputting a search result from the management center, where the registration template and search template are obtained by communicating with an external source.

As per the arguments presented above with respect to claim 1, the Applicant believes that claims 15, 17, 18 and 21 are not obvious with regards to Takaya in view of Scheifler. Therefore, claims 15, 17, 18 and 21 are believed to be in allowable form. The Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 15, 17, 18 and 21 withdrawn.

Claim 19 is dependent on claim 18, which is believed to be in allowable form. Therefore, claim 19 is believed to be in allowable form and the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 19 be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claims 5-8 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takaya et al (JP 2,956,587) in view of Berson (US 6,532,459).

Claims 5-8 and 20 are dependent, either directly or indirectly, on claim 1, which is now believed to be in allowable form. Therefore, claims 5-8 and 20 are believed to be in allowable form and the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections of claims 5-8 and 20 be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claims 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takaya et al (JP 2,956,587) in view of Fujiwara (EP 0,829,704).

Claims 11-14 are dependent, either directly or indirectly, on claim 1, which is now believed to be in allowable form. Therefore, claims 11-14 are believed to be in allowable form. The Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections of claims 11-14 be withdrawn.

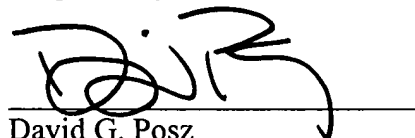
New dependent claims 22-24 recite a facility information input unit which contains registration templates with registration headings containing essential store information.

New dependent claim 25 recites a method of searching facility information which contains registration templates with the registration headings containing essential store information.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Posz', is written over a horizontal line.

David G. Posz
Reg. No. 37,701

Posz & Bethards, PLC
11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 10
Reston, VA 20190
Phone 703-707-9110
Fax 703-707-9112
Customer No. 23400